

PROTECT GIRLS FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING IN CONNECTICUT



CONNECTICUT MUST PASS A LAW THAT PROTECTS ALL GIRLS FROM FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION/CUTTING (FGM/C).

FGM/C involves altering or injuring the female genitalia for non-medical reasons, and is internationally recognized as a human rights violation that can cause negative health consequences, such as difficulties during childbirth, lifelong psychological and emotional trauma, and in some cases, even death.

A prevalence study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reveals that in 2012 over half a million women and girls in the United States underwent FGM/C or were at risk of FGM/C. **CONNECTICUT RANKS 26TH IN THE NATION FOR AT-RISK POPULATIONS, TOTALING 2,658.**

To view digital stories of women who have undergone FGM/C, visit <http://bit.ly/VoicesFGMCVideos>.

A federal FGM/C ban, first passed in 1996, has been amended and strengthened over the years to make it illegal for a girl to be taken overseas for the practice, to specifically include parents/guardians consenting to the procedure as a crime, and to call for government reporting on number of women and girls estimated to be impacted by FGM/C in the U.S. and government agencies' actions to end the practice.

Despite the federal law, state laws remain critical tools in preventing FGM/C. Specific state anti-FGM/C laws send a strong message that the practice is not acceptable. We know anecdotally that families on the fence or resisting having their daughters undergo the procedure, but facing pressure from family or community members to do so, use existing laws as the reason for why they will not cut their

daughters. In addition, state laws fill gaps left by federal laws. Comprehensive state legislation provides education and outreach on FGM/C to local communities and professionals likely to encounter cases, bans taking a girl outside of the state to undergo FGM/C, and gives survivors the opportunity to stand up for themselves in a court of law. A state law gives state prosecutors more leeway in the event DOJ can't/won't prosecute. Finally, federal law is not a substitute for state law and will not work in all instances.

A Connecticut ban on FGM/C is time-critical, as other New England states have passed laws criminalizing FGM/C, and Connecticut is also the only state bordering New York in which FGM/C is legal (an estimated 48,418 girls and women are currently at risk for FGM/C in New York). We do not want our state to be a destination for FGM/C. Additionally, Connecticut is the only state along the notorious sex trafficking corridor between Providence, RI and Atlantic City, NJ in which FGM/C is legal.

change.org

PETITION SUPPORTS LAW IN CT

Join the movement and sign
the Change.org petition -

<https://www.change.org/BanFGMinCT>

contact your legislator -

<https://act.unicefusa.org/fgmCT>

and/or follow us on Facebook at

[@BanFGMinCT!](https://www.facebook.com/BanFGMinCT)

- 200 million women and girls worldwide live with FGM/C consequences
- FGM/C has been reported to occur in over 92 countries in the world
- 30 million girls under the age of 15 are at risk, including girls living in the United States.
- 39 States have passed laws banning FGM/C, in some cases as amendments to child abuse laws. **Make Connecticut number 40.**
- FGM/C is usually performed between birth and puberty
- FGM/C is performed for a variety of reasons, including to control a girl's sexuality and to ensure virginity until marriage and fidelity in marriage.
- FGM/C in many cases can be performed on girls without anesthetics, but there is growing concern that FGM/C is being medicalized and performed by health professionals. In either situation, FGM/C can have lifelong health consequences including chronic infections, hemorrhage, severe pain during urination, menstruation, and sexual intercourse.

#BanFGMinCT

39 STATES HAVE ANTI-FGM/C LAWS, MAKE CONNECTICUT NO.40*

U.S. STATES WITH ANTI-FGM/C LAWS

STATE	ONLY APPLIES TO MINORS (UNDER 18 UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED)	PARENT/ GUARDIAN & CIRCUMCISER SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION	"VACATION PROVISION" BANNING TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE STATE FOR FGM/C	MEDICALLY NECESSARY EXCEPTION	CULTURAL/ RITUAL REASONS, AND/OR CONSENT NOT A DEFENSE	PROVISIONS FOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION & OUTREACH
ARIZONA	X		X	X	X	
ARKANSAS	X	X	X	X	X	X
CALIFORNIA	X	X		X		X
COLORADO	UNDER 16	X		X	X	
CONNECTICUT (PROPOSED LEGISLATION)	X	X	X	X	X	X
DELAWARE	X	X		X	X	
FLORIDA	X	X	X	X	X	
GEORGIA	X	X	X	X	X	
IDAHO	X	X	X	X	X	
ILLINOIS		X		X	X	
IOWA			X	X	X	X
KANSAS	X	X	X	X	X	
KENTUCKY	X	X	X	X	X	X
LOUISIANA	X	X	X	X	X	
MARYLAND	X	X		X	X	
MASSACHUSETTS	X	X ^Δ	X	X	X	X
MICHIGAN	X	X	X	X	X	X
MINNESOTA				X	X	X
MISSOURI	UNDER 17	X		X	X	
NEVADA	X	X	X	X	X	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	X	X	X		X	
NEW JERSEY	X	X	X	X	X	
NEW YORK	X	X		X	X	X
NORTH CAROLINA	X	X	X	X	X	
NORTH DAKOTA	X	X		X	X	
OHIO	X		X	X	X	
OKLAHOMA				X	X	
OREGON	X	X		X	X	X
PENNSYLVANIA	X	X	X	X	X	
RHODE ISLAND						
SOUTH CAROLINA	X	X	X	X	X	
SOUTH DAKOTA	X	X	X	X	X	
TENNESSEE		X		X	X	
TEXAS	X	X	X	X	X	
UTAH	X	X	X	X	X	X
VERMONT	X		X	X	X	
VIRGINIA	X	X	X	X		
WEST VIRGINIA	X	X			X	
WISCONSIN	X			X	X	
WYOMING	X	X	X	X	X	X

*Numbered facts provided by Equality Now. More info visit www.equalitynow.org ^ΔExisting MA aiding and abetting law covers parents/guardians